

**In the Claims:**

This listing will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the subject application.

1. (Currently Amended) A water-responsive homogeneous polymer blend composition comprising a biodegradable polymer grafted with a polar monomer, oligomer, or polymer or a combination thereof, said biodegradable polymer being selected from poly( $\beta$ -hydroxy hydroxyl alkanoates), poly(alkylene succinates), polycaprolactones or combinations thereof that are hydrolytically degradable, and a water-soluble polymer or a water-soluble polymer grafted with a polar monomer, oligomer, or polymer or a combination thereof.
2. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said water-soluble polymer is selected from polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, sulfonated polyester, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyacrylamide or polyacrylic acid.
3. (Withdrawn)
4. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said polar vinyl monomer is an ethylenically unsaturated monomer containing at least one polar functional group or said oligomer or said polymer is an oligomer or a polymer polymerized from an ethylenically unsaturated monomer containing at least one polar functional group.
5. (Original) The composition of Claim 4, wherein said at least one polar functional group is a hydroxyl, carboxyl, cyano, amino, sulfonate group or a combination thereof.
6. (Withdrawn)
7. (Original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said polar monomer is a polar vinyl monomer.

8-11. (Withdrawn)

12. (Original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said biodegradable polymer contains from 1 to 20 weight percent grafted polar monomer, oligomer or polymer or combination thereof.

13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said polar monomer, oligomer, or polymer is selected from 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, or polyethylene glycol methacrylate, and said water-soluble polymer is selected from polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, sulfonated polyester, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyacrylamide or polyacrylic acid.

15. (Currently amended) A homogeneous water-dispersible polymer blend comprising from 1% to 35% by weight of a grafted biodegradable polymer selected from poly( $\beta$ -hydroxy alkanoates), poly(alkylene succinates), polycaprolactones or combinations thereof that are hydrolytically degradable and from 65% to 99% by weight of a water-soluble polymer or a grafted water-soluble polymer.

16. (Currently amended) A homogeneous water-disintegratable polymer blend comprising from 35% to 45% by weight of a grafted biodegradable polymer selected from poly( $\beta$ -hydroxy ~~hydroxyl~~ alkanoates), poly(alkylene succinates), polycaprolactones or combinations thereof that are hydrolytically degradable and from 55% to 65% by weight soluble polymer or a grafted water-soluble polymer.

17. (Currently amended) A homogeneous water-weakenable polymer blend comprising from 45% to 55% by weight of a grafted biodegradable polymer selected from poly( $\beta$ -hydroxy ~~hydroxyl~~ alkanoates), poly(alkylene succinates), polycaprolactones or combinations there that are hydrolytically degradable and from 45% to 55% by weight of a water soluble polymer or a grafted water-soluble polymer.

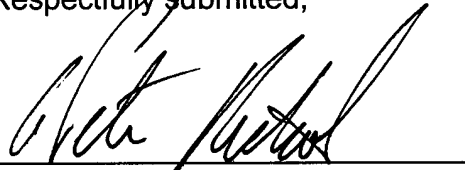
18. (Original) A film comprising the composition of Claim 1.
19. (Original) A fiber comprising the composition of Claim 1.
20. (Original) An article comprising the composition of Claim 1.
- 21-31. (Withdrawn)
32. (Previously presented) Water-sensitive polymer blends of a modified, biodegradable polymer selected from poly( $\beta$ -hydroxy hydroxyl alkanoates), poly(alkylene succinates), polycaprolactones or combinations thereof that are hydrolytically degradable and a modified water-soluble polymer.
33. (Previously presented) Water-sensitive polymer blends of modified poly(ethylene) oxide and modified poly( $\beta$ -hydroxy hydroxyl alkanoates), modified poly(alkylene succinates), modified polycaprolactones or combinations thereof that are hydrolytically degradable.

## REMARKS

All the claims were rejected as being anticipated or obvious in view of US 5,952,433 to Wang et al. Each of the independent claims has been amended to recite that the previously claimed poly(hydroxyl alkanoates) are more specifically poly( $\beta$ -hydroxy alkanoates). Wang et al. does not teach or suggest such biodegradable polymers. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants believe the present claims are allowable and respectfully request allowance of the application. Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4276 to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Peter Nichols', is written over a horizontal line.

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